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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,903	09/15/2003	Shinichi Orimo	7217/69678	1283
7590	11/03/2004		EXAMINER	
JAY H. MAIOLI Cooper & Dunham LLP 1185 Avenue of the Americas New York, NY 10036			BEN, LOHA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2873	

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/662,903	ORIMO ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
LOHA BEN	2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-10, 12-21 and 23-32 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 11, 22 and 33 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

shearer

Loha Ben
Primary Examiner

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Minor informalities noted and suggestion therefor

In the Specification

Page 4: line 8, "303" should be – 304 --, since "303" represents "toroidally-shaped plate spring".

In the Drawings

Figs. 1 and 2 should be labeled – PRIOR ART --.

In the Claims

In claim 1: line 2, "holding"(second occurrence) should be deleted; and line 14, before "in", "members" should be – member --.

In claim 6: line 8, "a" should be replaced with – the --.

In claim 9: line 5, "an other" should be – another --; and line 9, "springs" should be – spring – (see line 9 of claims 20 and 31 for consistency in scope).

In claim 14: line 7, "opening" should be replaced with – hole – (see line 3).

In claim 15: line 3, "hole"(first occurrence) should be deleted; and line 7, "opening" should be replaced with – hole – (see line 3).

In claim 20: line 5, "the other" should be replaced with – another --.

In claim 23: line 19, "member" should be – members --; and line 20, "members" should be – member --.

In claims 25 and 26: bottom line, "opening" should be replaced with – hole --.

In claim 26: line 3, "hole"(first occurrence) should be deleted.

In claim 28: line 6, "an other" should be – another --.

In claim 31: line 5, "an other" should be – another --.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11, 22 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 11, line 7, and in claims 22 and 33, lines 6 and 7, with regard to the phrase "both ends", it is uncertain to what element these ends belong.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11, 22 and 33 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-10, 13-21 and 23-32 are allowable.

The allowability of all claims is based mainly on the adjustment means recited in claims 1, 12 and 23.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Loha Ben whose telephone number is (571) 272-2323. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Saturday, generally between 12:00 noon and 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps, can be reached on Monday to Friday, at (571) 27202328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 29, 2004



Loha Ben
Primary Examiner